






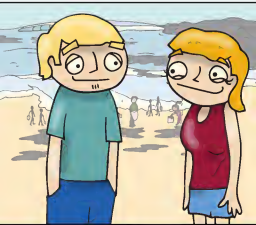
ILLUSIONS OF ADULTING

by Sara Zimmerman



Hailey, thank you for this incredible effort AND for getting my band this gig. This was an awesome opportunity.

Of course!
You sounded
great, Sweetie.






A comic panel showing three characters in the foreground: a blonde woman on the left in a blue shirt and red skirt, a blonde man in the center in a teal shirt and blue pants, and a blonde woman on the right in a red tank top and blue pants. They are standing on a sandy beach. In the background, there are waves, a few people, and a purple sign that says 'OIL CLEAN UP'. The woman on the left has a speech bubble that says 'Hi, Hailey.' The woman on the right has a speech bubble that says 'Steve, this is Ethan who helped me put this event together. Ethan, this is my fiancé, Steve.'

Hi, Hailey.


Steve, this is Ethan who helped me put this event together.
Ethan, this is my fiancé, Steve.

OIL CLEAN UP



Fiancé? Uhhhh... nice
to meet you.

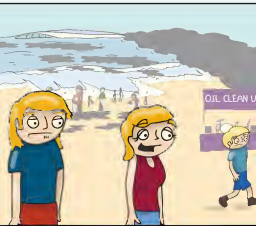
Nice to meet
you, too.

A comic panel set on a beach. In the background, there are waves and a sign that says "OIL CLEAN UP". Three children are in the foreground. A boy in a blue shirt is on the left, looking surprised. A boy in a teal shirt is in the middle, looking happy. A girl in a red tank top is on the right, looking happy and speaking. A speech bubble from the boy in the teal shirt says, "Well, I'm going to help the volunteers. I'll see you in a little bit." Another speech bubble from the girl in the red tank top says, "Okay. Bye, Honey."

Well, I'm going to help the volunteers. I'll see you in a little bit.

OIL CLEAN UP

Okay.
Bye, Honey.



So, Hailey... your idea of
the community beach
clean up was so great.

OIL CLEAN UP



You're just so smart
and wonderful...



OIL CLEAN UP



ILLUSION:



No. YOU'RE the
best, Ethan. Let's
celebrate at your
place tonight.

REALITY:

Uhh.. thanks.
Yes, the event is going
well, isn't it?



OIL CLEAN UP

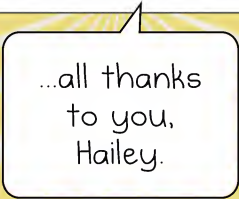
In fact, I just got a call that the oil leak has been fixed, the oil containment efforts have been very successful, and that the marine wildlife sanctuary has more volunteer help than ever before...

Actually...



...it IS going so well that I just got a call, too. Turns out your idea for the company to actually take responsibility for their mistake and then getting the community together was just the type of PR we needed. Stocks are back to soaring and the stock holders are very happy...





...all thanks
to you,
Hailey.



Thanks!
Just doing
my job.

OIL CLEAN UP

Congratulatory
hug?

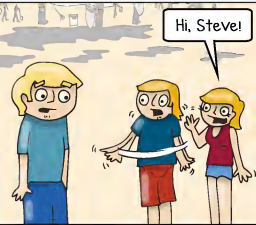
Uh... sure.



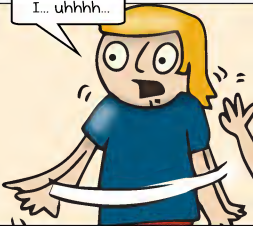









I... uhhhh...





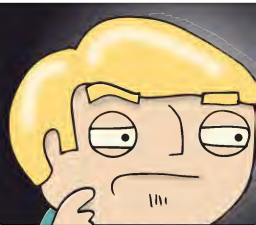


That was weird...



Hailey, is there something
I should know about with
you and Ethan?

With him? No,
we're just friends.



TO BE CONTINUED...

by Sara Zimmerman / Unearthed Comics

Did you ever have a situation where you felt that something was going on BUT no one would listen to you? Share in the comments below.